PRESS RELEASE

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New African Development Bank funding to support durable solutions for thousands of internally displaced and host communities in Somalia's Gedo region in Dollow, Somalia.

MOGADISHU – UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with the Federal Government of Somalia, and the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, have today launched a landmark project that will advance long-term solutions for thousands of displaced people and host communities in Dollow town, Gedo region.

Under the overall coordination the National Centre for Rural Development and Durable Solutions (NCRDS) as the Executing Agency, and implemented jointly with IOM, the UN Migration Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN HABITAT, UN Women the USD 20.55 million "Strengthening Urban Resilience of Displaced and Host Communities in Dollow" (SURDHT) project aims to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in four urban IDPs settlements in Dollow and facilitate their integration into the host community with improved housing, water, sanitation and enhanced livelihood opportunities.

Specifically, the project will: i) promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and youth leadership through enhanced skills development and entrepreneurship opportunities; ii) support building of resilience to climate shocks through enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation measures; iii) support establishment of sustainable access to basic infrastructure in IDPs settlements; and iv) improve government capacity for the coordination of integration activities for IDPs, including land administration, conflict mitigation and social cohesion.

"This project is a critical entry point to advance durable solutions through the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus approach," said Ms. **Jing Song**, UNHCR Representative a.i. in Somalia," Beyond addressing immediate humanitarian needs, it is essential to invest in sustainable livelihoods and resilience. Communities have clearly expressed their desire to move beyond aid dependency and rebuild their lives with dignity.

Somalia continues to face complex challenges driven by cycles of extreme weather and conflicts that have stripped people of their capacities to support themselves and reduce their reliance on humanitarian aid. The SURDHT initiative addresses these by strengthening national capacity and ownership of essential services, sustainable investment to strengthen community reliance, fostering shared resources between displaced populations and host communities, and reducing secondary displacement.

"The launch of the SURDHT project today signifies a significant milestone in the Federal Government of Somalia's dedication to fostering durable solutions for internally displaced persons and enhancing the resilience of host communities. In Dollow, this initiative is poised to improve access to housing, water, sanitation, livelihoods, and social services, while also advancing dignity, self-reliance, and social cohesion. The Government regards durable solutions not merely as a humanitarian imperative but as a fundamental component of state-building, stability, and inclusive development. We appreciate the collaboration with the African Development Bank, UNHCR, and all implementing agencies, and we reaffirm our dedication to ensuring robust national leadership and coordination through the National Center for Rural Development and Durable Solutions," said **H.E Hamza Abdi Barre**, the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The project is part of a broader initiative supported by the AfDB Group, under the Transition Support Facility, emphasizing the HDP Nexus to ensure long-term stability in the Horn of Africa.

"This investment illustrates how the Federal Government of Somalia, working with its citizens, is shifting the response to displacement toward lasting outcomes. With secure land tenure, climate-resilient housing, and livelihood opportunities for women and youth, Somali communities in Dollow are building resilience and restoring opportunity. This approach moves the country from fragility to stability and from vulnerability to dignity, grounded in national leadership," said **Dr. Alex Mubiru**, Director General for the East Africa regional office of the African Development Bank.

More than 3.9 million Somalis are internally displaced, the second largest in the eastern and southern Africa region.

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